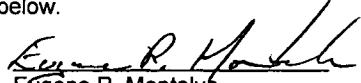




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Eugene R. Montalvo

Date: August 31, 2001

PATENT
TH-0776X (US)
ERM:SWT

3673
#20
Amend C
9/15/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

)
DONALD WAYNE ALLEN and
DEAN LEROY HENNING

)
Serial No. 08/970,312

)
Filed November 14, 1997

)
FAIRED TRUSS SPAR

)
Group Art Unit: 3673

)
Examiner: J. Lee

)
August 31, 2001

RECEIVED

SEP 10 2001

3600 MAIL ROOM

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 24, 2001

Hon. Assistant Commissioner
For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Attorney for Applicant in the present invention hereby responds to the Office Action mailed July 24, 2001. At the time of the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-8 were pending.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows. A marked-up version of claim 1 indicating the amendments to claim 1 is attached hereto as Appendix A.

1. In a spar structure for offshore hydrocarbon recovery operations, the spar structure comprising:

a vertically oriented elongated floating hull having a buoyant upper section;